

a church. Later divisions came thru parties wishing to reform the mother church, and, failing on the inside, have sought to carry out their reform ideas by a separate organization. This was true of our own church. While the existence of so many denominations has resulted in evils yet the principle back of them is a good one and should never be exchanged for the Roman Catholic principle. But of this the question before us does not call for discussion.

Quiet Observer

Some Observations on Brethren Love Feasts

After attending a great many communion services I am constrained to express some convictions that have grown upon me steadily. I say "communion services" because this is the name usually employed now-a-days. To us it means the entire service of the Lord's supper, but to Christians in general it means only the eucharist or bread and wine. The primitive church had what were called *love feasts*. This is a good Bible name and ought to be retained. It stands for the entire service as nothing else does.

Now in the observance of love feasts I have felt that the Brethren are in the greatest danger of losing the lessons of the service. Even in the apostolic days abuses attended the service, and it was not long after until these became so great that the eucharist was observed separately.

The Brethren seek to preserve the primitive custom without the abuses. The German Baptist church has not altogether succeeded in this. Thru zeal for preciseness and uniformity in all the details of the form the minds of the people are diverted from the truths for which the ceremonies stand. In some cases a great mob is attracted just as by a circus, and the communicants go thru the service in a way which says, "How proud I am that I am so humble that I can do this act of obedience in spite of your ridicule, you ungodly world."

Are the Progressive Brethren entirely free from this abuse? We have sought to avoid the scandals attending the all-day meeting of our conservative brethren but in doing away altogether with the preparatory meeting have we not suffered loss? Would it not be better to have a preliminary meeting at which the social feature may be emphasized? Brethren with difficulties may there get together. Young converts or wayward members who otherwise may keep away from communion can be set right and strengthened for duty. The pastor can explain the reasons for observing the love feast and impress the importance of it, so that when the time comes in the evening there may be a full attendance, and all will be ready to observe it in the proper spirit.

Then ought not the service be private? I know that many of you old veterans who were brought up under the old customs revolt at this, but do you not remember how Jesus taught many things to the public, and then the more sacred, deeper things he taught to his disciples privately? Mk. 4:34; Luke 10:23, etc. Do you not remember that Jesus was alone with his disciples when he instituted these things? Do you not know that it was the custom of the early church to observe their love feasts privately? It may be easy for you who are older, but for the young it is often hard to be the gazing-stock of a host of unsympathetic worldlings, and many are keeping away from communion altogether on this account. Possibly a few sinners may be impressed, but others will be hardened, and the good done to the outsiders will by no means compensate for the loss in having the communicants turned all the evening from the lessons of the service by an annoying sense of being gazed at.

And another observation I want to make. Ought not all discussion in defense of the custom of the Brethren as distinguished from other churches be given at some other time? I once asked one of our ministers why he denounced other churches so much in his talk and he replied "Because I saw a Campbellite preacher come in while I was talking." Is this the spirit of the service? Ought not the mem-

bers be so well instructed beforehand that at the service only its lessons—humility, cleansing, brotherly love and communion—need be the subjects of talk and meditation? There are other services for the instruction of sinners. This is for the strengthening of Christians. Let us save it from the fate of the love-feasts in the early church. That is not loyalty which is careful of the form regardless of the spirit, but that which is careful of the form which will best conserve the spirit.

Our Cream Pitcher

Prof. Henry Drummond

"Love is the fulfilling of the law." It is the rule for fulfilling all rules, the new commandment for keeping all the old commandments—Christ's one secret of the Christian life.

Glory, then, is not something intangible or ghostly or transcendental. If it were this, how could Paul ask men to reflect it? Stripped of its physical enswathment it is a beauty, moral and spiritual beauty—beauty infinitely real, infinitely exalted, yet infinitely near, and infinitely communicable.

We know little now about the conditions of life that is to come but what is certain is that love must last.

Christ's yoke is simply his secret for the alleviation of human life. His prescription for the best and happiest method of living.

When the experimental religion of a man, of a community, or of a nation wanes, religion wanes—their idea of God grows indistinct, and that man, community, or nation, becomes infidel.

Thank God the Christianity of today is coming nearer the world! Live to keep that on. Thank God men know better by a hairs breadth what religion is, what God is, who Christ is, where Christ is!

Robert Speer

The evangelization of the world in this generation depends, first of all, upon a revival of prayer. Deeper than the need for men; deeper, far, than the need of money; aye, deep down at the bottom of our spiritless life, is the need for the forgotten secret of prevailing, world-wide prayer. The condition and consequence of such prayers as this is a new outpouring of the Holy Ghost. May God give it to each one of us!—the secret and sweetness of unceasing, prevailing, triumphant prayer for the coming of the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ram's Horn

The man who lives to please himself will find that he has a hard master.

This life will mean more when we realize that it is the pathway to the next.

This world is too small to afford a place of safety to the man who disobeys God.

The more faith men have in God, the more faith they will have in one another.

To persuade one soul to lead a better life is to leave the world better than you found it.

New York Observer

A Christianity that does not make men and women self sacrificing and active in public service, as well as ardent in living and teaching the truth, is not worthy the name.

Sunday-School Times

What think ye of Christ? That was a test question in the beginning of our era, nineteen centuries ago. It has been growing in importance from that day till this. On our answer to that question pivot our answers to all minor questions which comfort us in every sphere of practical life and thought and being.

Religious Telescope

When the truth of the gospel is so believed and obeyed that its transforming, saving power is experienced in the soul, then does it, indeed, become the power of God unto salvation to the soul. Believing

without obeying is like eating without digesting—only an effort that gives weakness and torment instead of strength and comfort to the soul.

Brevities

—On the 110 square miles of London's area 1,000 tons of scot settle yearly.

—The largest hotel in the world, with a capacity for 5 000 guests, is being built at Mecca, by order of the Sultan.

—Never before in the history of the United States has there been such a great demand for watches of all kinds.

—Omaha, Neb., is the third steer killing place in the United States. Chicago and Kansas City are greater killers than Omaha.

—The new Oxford dictionary will contain a new "longest word in the English language," to wit—"nonintercommunicability."

—Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett says that, altho English by birth, she believes America is the place for work, and, therefore, does nearly all her writing in this country.

—Horses, giraffes and ostriches have the largest eyes of all terrestrial animals, but among marine animals there are cephalopods, or ink fishes, which have eyes as large as a plate.

—At a recent conference of the Mormon Church, George Q. Cannon complained that there never was in the history of the Church such an absence of respect for its authority as now.

—There is really no home life in Korea, because women are not recognized in the home. If a man meets his wife on the street he does not notice her, while she, if she sees him in time, slips out of sight if she can.

—It has been ascertained by a series of questions that what children are most afraid of are thunderstorms. Next come reptiles, strangers, darkness, fire, death, domestic animals, illness, wild animals, water, insects, etc.

—A cornstalk recently grown on a farm near Owensboro, Ky., is seventeen feet four inches long and has twenty-seven joints. Two feet and six inches of the stalk have been cut off, the stalk being originally nineteen feet ten inches in length.

—It is stated on the authority of those who have undergone the experience, that people buried in an avalanche hear distinctly every word uttered by those who are seeking them, while their most strenuous shouts fail to penetrate even a few feet of snow.

—Silk of the great spider of Madagascar is strong, fine and elastic. It is used by the natives for fastening flowers to sunshades. The spiders which produce it are busy spinners, and a spider has been known to produce two miles of it in 24 hours.

—Mrs. Capron, widow of the Rough Rider Captain, who was killed in Cuba, will sail for the Philippines in May, to Red Cross work. Since the death of her husband she has interested herself in the welfare of discharged soldiers, securing employment for many of them.

—The first full blooded India woman to receive a diploma as a trained nurse is Miss Nancy Ruth Seneca, daughter of Chief Isaac Seneca, head of the Seneca tribe on the Cattaraugus reservation in New York State. She is now completing her professional education at the Medico-Chirurgical Hospital in Philadelphia, where the doctors pronounce her a treasure in care and skill.

The Brethren of Sidney will hold their semi-annual communion Friday, July 6, 1900. All of like faith are invited.
C. O. KETROW.